



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For additional information, please contact Katie Bieber by phone (402-471-5025) or email ([katie.bieber@nebraska.gov](mailto:katie.bieber@nebraska.gov)).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **STUDENTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ON NEBRASKA STATE STANDARDS**

Preliminary test scores released today show that nearly three of every four Nebraska public school students met state standards in 2016. Generally, scores show a steady improvement over time with significant change in all subject areas since the inception of Nebraska State Assessments (NeSA).

"Nebraska students are making great strides in reading with proficiency now over 80%," Commissioner Matt Blomstedt said, noting a two percent increase in student reading scores this year compared to 2015, and a 13 percent increase since 2010. "This is good news as strong reading skills contribute to success in all academic areas," he added.

Seven of every 10 Nebraska students are proficient in math and science. Trend data shows state test scores have improved incrementally since testing began six years ago on reading standards, with testing in other subjects phased in yearly. Over six years, the percentage of students proficient on mathematics standards improved by 10 percent and science proficiency increased five percent in five years.

Statewide Director of Assessment Valorie Foy said, "teachers continue to build the opportunity for educational excellence for all students every day in Nebraska schools. Every year more Nebraska students meet the state benchmarks for proficiency."

Even though the percentage of Nebraska students meeting state standards has increased, overall, Blomstedt said Nebraska can improve. "As we continue to chart the future of education in Nebraska we know we must focus on closing the educational achievement gap for all subgroups of students by areas such as race, ethnicity, and poverty."

Parents will receive a report on their child's scores from their local school district this fall. Detailed results for schools and districts are available on the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage at [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov). Writing results will not be released at this time. The Nebraska Department of Education is confirming the accuracy of calculations of NeSa-Writing data.

In October, state test results for groups of students will be available on the Nebraska Education Profile (formerly the State of the Schools Report.)

Over the next three years, Nebraska's Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow system (AQuESTT) will demonstrate progress toward state achievement goals, close achievement gaps, increase college and career readiness, and improve the quality of educational opportunities for students across the state.